

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Title is amended by the response to correct a misspelling therein.

Claims 18-34 are pending in this application. Claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,740,800 to Hendrickson et al. (herein "Hendrickson"). That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

The independent claims are amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 18 now clarifies a system connected to a plurality of medical equipment and that can manage various works performed by using the plurality of medical equipments and that relate to at least one patient or at least one medical examination. The other independent claims are amended to recite similar features.

In further detail, independent claim 18 now specifically recites:

18. A system connected to a plurality of medical equipments and configured to manage various works which are performed by using the plurality of medical equipments and that relate to at least one patient or at least one medical examination, the system comprising:

a generate unit configured to generate a stream list which includes a plurality of stream information defining a flow of work processes performed in one work; and

a display unit which displays the stream list to be shared.

Independent claim 18 is directed to a system able to execute a centralized progress management of work processes that each of a plurality of medical equipments will execute. With the claimed system it is possible to centralize and manage a stream of medical works that the plurality of medical equipments execute, the plurality of medical equipments being able to be included in a global system. With the claimed invention it becomes possible to easily and appropriately manage an executive schedule of the plurality of medical equipments

so as to effectively execute necessary medical works. The other independent claims recite similar features. The claims as written are believed to clearly distinguish over Hendrickson.

Hendrickson is directed to a clinical pathway associated with a patient condition and that includes sequence time intervals and order sets showing medical treatment, examination, care, instructions, and so forth to be performed to each patient, as evident for example from Figure 2 in Hendrickson and the description thereto. Such clinical pathways of Hendrickson merely manage medical works for each patient. Such clinical pathways of Hendrickson cannot be used to centralize and manage a stream of medical works that a plurality of medical equipments executes.

As noted above, the claims as currently written are more clearly directed to a system or method connected to or managing “a plurality of medical equipments”. Henderson is not directed to such a device.

With respect to the claimed feature of generating “a stream list which includes a plurality of stream information defining a flow of work processes performed in one work”, the outstanding rejection cites Hendrickson at column 2, lines 11-26. However, as noted above that disclosure in Hendrickson is merely directed to a selected clinical pathway, which is clearly disclosed in Hendrickson as associated with a patient. That disclosure in Hendrickson is not at all directed to works performed “by using the plurality of medical equipments”.


In view of these foregoing comments, the claims as currently written patentably distinguish over Hendrickson.

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Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2007

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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